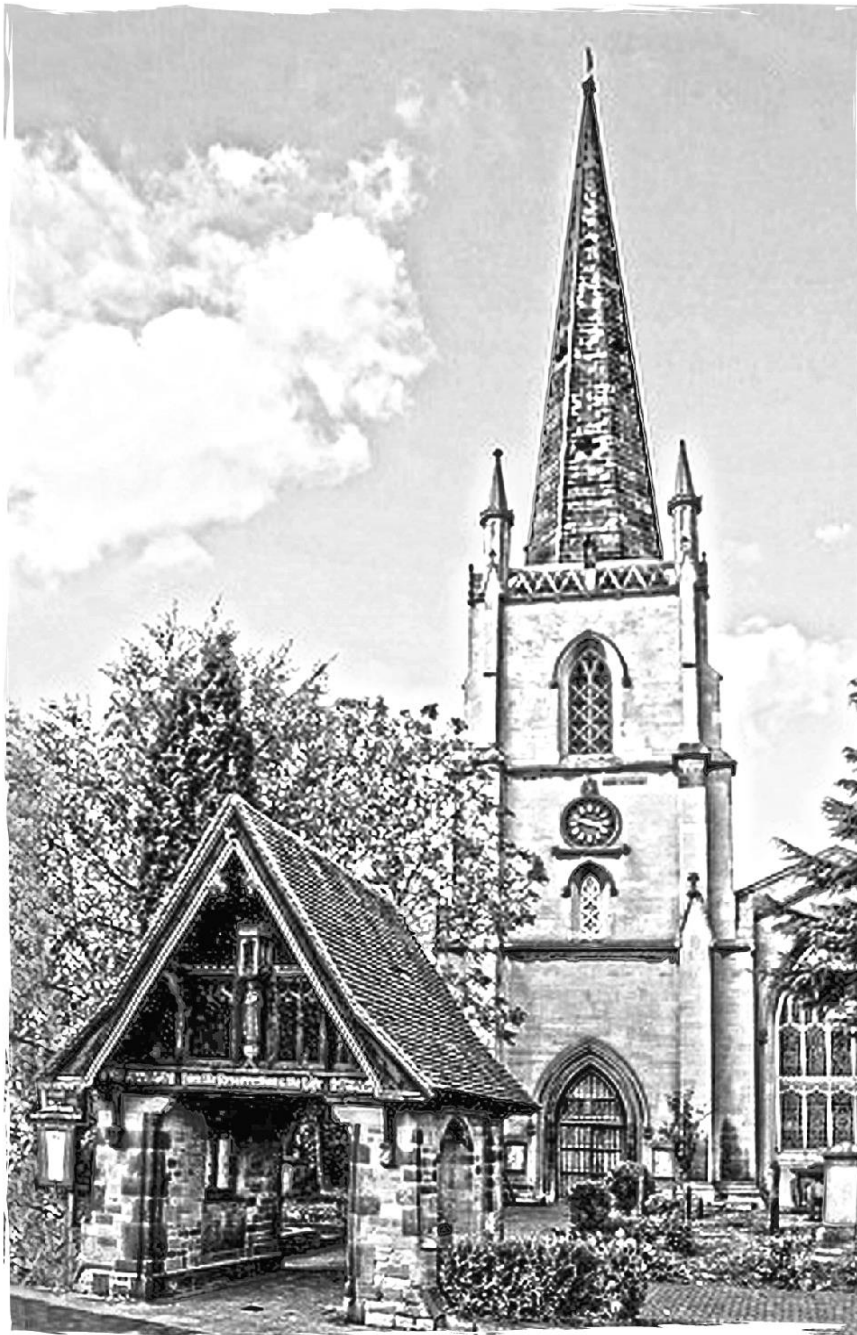


# St matthews church

## Prayer Diary



**December 2024**



*St Matthew's Church – **Worshipping** God; **Equipping** his people;  
**Growing** his kingdom; **Serving** Walsall*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

***Philippians 4:8***

### **Sunday 1st December**

#### **Prayer and Worship**

Dear Lord, help us to remember what a difference it can make when we treat our time with you as a priority. Into your hands we can place our worries and cares, into your wisdom we can place our path and direction and into your love we can place our lives. As we come into your house today, stay with us when we leave and guide us all as we go about our daily lives. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Loriners Grove.

### **Monday 2nd December**

#### **Graveside Service for Freda Evans**

Loving Father, we pray for the family and friends of Freda Evans as they come to inter her ashes. May it bring comfort to know that her heavenly soul is with you and her ashes are in sacred ground. Amen.

Please pray for the students on Walsall Campus, Wolverhampton University.

### **Tuesday 3rd December**

#### **Meeting of Rural Deans**

Heavenly Father, we pray for your presence and guidance at this meeting of the Rural Deans today. As the Church of England is going through a challenging time of criticism and change, we open our hearts to hear your word. We pray for all those who have been victims of abuse within the church over many years. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of George Street.

### **Wednesday 4th December**

#### **Community and Christmas Choirs**

What joy it is to come together to sing with others. Whether it is in the Community Choir, where there is the opportunity to sing songs of the past and learn new ones in an atmosphere of light-hearted banter, or the Christmas Choir, singing of the birth of Christ. Thank you, Father, for the time and talent of Andrew leading these choirs. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Goodall Street.

## **Thursday 5th December**

### **Deanery Synod Advent Reflection / Interview**

As the church awaits the celebration of the birth of Christ, be with the Denary Synod as it reflects on that advent news of so long along.

As Rev Jim meets with others to interview candidates for the role of a vicar in our deanery, give them the discernment to select the person best suited to the church. May they hear your guiding Word, Lord, Amen.

Prayers for the Walsall Deanery, St Michael and All Angels Church.

## **Friday 6th December**

### **May there be Peace**

Lord, there are so many countries and communities at war with each other across our world this time of Advent. Some driven by conflicts in faith, and some by greed to take land and have power over their neighbours. We pray that the Christmas message of Peace and Hope can be heard. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Newport Street.

## **Saturday 7th December**

### **Asian Community**

As the Asian congregation within St Matthew's come together to share time in each other's company, we give thanks, Lord, for their presence in our church community. For their weekly worship which is broadcast across the world and their support of each other. Heavenly Father, bless them and the work they do in your name. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Bradford Street.

## **Sunday 8th December**

### **Civic Carol Service**

Dear Father, as we come together today we pray for all those who attend this Carol Service. We pray that your blessings will pour down on the structures of our society. May they work for those they serve, not for the status or power of those in charge. Help us, your church to be an example and model, working collaboratively and selflessly as we come together to sing of the birth of our saviour Jesus. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Bradford Lane.

## **Monday 9th December**

### **Leadership Team**

Lord of all, as the newly-formed Leadership Team meet, be with them in their endeavour to lead St Matthew's forward in the challenges ahead, be it in worship, financial or staffing decisions. May they be guided by you to work with the Pastoral, Personal and Finance teams. We give thanks to the commitment by our church members, who give their time and skills to the St Matthew's Church. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Mountrath Street.

## **Tuesday 10th December**

### **Places of Welcome / Warm Welcome**

We open the doors of our churches in Walsall, Lord, to welcome people in. May they feel the love for them in these places of worship, St Matthew's, Central Methodist Church, where a warm drink and cake/toast are freely offered. As Jesus shared the food with the 4000, may we share with those who seek refreshment and company. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Vicarage Place.

## **Wednesday 11th December**

### **JAM / Singing Carols throughout Walsall**

Dear Lord, we pray today for all these children and leaders that attend this after-school club, Jesus And Me. Here, the children learn about you through hearing stories from the Bible, playing games and craft activities. Help them to realise how much you love them.

As the Christmas Choir continue to make its way around Walsall, may more people realise the significance of the birth of Jesus in their lives today. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Junction Street.

## **Thursday 12th December**

### **Children's Activities / Diocesan Staff Meeting**

May all those parents and careers who attend Stay and Play and the Sensory Play with their children and babies in the Centre feel included in the life of the church.

Father, at this busy time in the church calendar for the clergy, may this coming together bring support and a reinvigoration of the message they are called to share with us, your flock. Amen.

Prayers for the Walsall Deanery, St Mary's, St Thomas', Tynings Lane Churches.

## **Friday 13th December**

### **Church Cleaning and Flower Arranging**

Father, we give thanks for all the volunteers both seen and unseen in our church community. You know them all by name.

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go Lord, if you lead me. Amen.*

Please pray for the residents of Vicarage Walk.

## **Saturday 14th December**

### **Carol singing at Walsall Football Club**

What joy and excitement to sing at our local football ground, Lord, of the birth of your son, our saviour Jesus. May the fans of both teams join together in singing of this world changing event with understanding and compassion. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Glebe Street.

## **Sunday 15th December**

### **Peace Within**

Almighty God, give us today calmness within so that tension will go away and help us to be at peace with one another. May we come to you with openness and without fear or reproach? As we have so freely received from you, help us to give freely of ourselves. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Hart Street.

## **Monday 16th December**

### **Loving Ourselves**

Dear Father, please help us to be set free from comparing ourselves with others and trying to be someone we are not. Let us realise that we are all your children and, despite our faults, that you love us and are proud of who we are. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Mount Street.

## **Tuesday 17th December**

### **Real Treasure**

Dear Father, as Christmas seems to focus more and more on spending, help us to realise that real treasure in this world comes from knowing and loving you. May everything we do begin with you, continue with your help and be done under your guidance. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of White Street.

## **Wednesday 18th December**

### **God's Gifts to Us**

Dear Lord, we know that you care so much for each of us and we realise how important we all are to you. Today is a good day to simply say 'thank you' for all your gifts to us – our health, our world, our homes, those we love. We all have our fears and disappointments, and our outright struggles. Help us to let love, faith and prayer be stronger than any of these and to put our complete trust in you, knowing that you will never fail us and will always provide us with all that we need. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Brace Street.

## **Thursday 19th December**

### **OWLs**

As OWLs meets for the last time before Christmas, we give thanks for the group, and for the joy and support it brings. May it be a time of happiness and celebration for all who come along. Amen.

Prayers for the Walsall Deanery, St Michael the Archangel, Christ the King churches.

## **Friday 20th December**

### **Blue Coat Federation Christmas Service**

Please bless the Blue Coat service today. Let it be an enjoyable time for pupils and staff alike, and may they come to see the true meaning of Christmas. As term ends, we pray, too, that all at the Federation have a good and restful well-earned holiday, and come back refreshed in the New Year. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Corporation Street.

## **Saturday 21st December**

### **Asian Congregation**

Dear Lord, thank you for our Asian congregation – for the faith they show and the love for you they demonstrate. As they have an informal gathering today may they feel your presence amongst them and your arms around them. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Waterly Lane.

## **Sunday 22nd December**

### **The Nativity and Carol Services**

Dear Jesus, as we listen again to the wonderful and familiar Christmas story in these services may we realise anew of the wonderful and amazing sacrifice that you made in coming down to earth for our salvation. And we pray, too, for those who will be coming to the services but do not normally attend. It is real blessing to have them with us, and may they be touched by the message they hear and by the welcome they receive. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Tasker Street.

## **Monday 23rd December**

### **Those Who are Lonely at Christmas**

Dear Father, we know how much you love and care for us all. Please be with those who are on their own, feeling lonely or missing loved ones at this time of the year. Christmas is a time when families get together but for many life can be especially difficult and make them feel even more isolated. Help us to be aware of anyone in this position and to show them that we care and offer them our friendship and support. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Woodcutter Close.

## **Tuesday 24th December**

### **Christingle Service / Midnight Communion**

Father God. The celebration of your Son Jesus coming to earth as a baby is often a difficult time for many. Through the message of the Christingle help us all to think of those who are suffering in all the world and the great sacrifice of your Son Jesus. We think particularly of the organisations that give support to those in need both here in Walsall and across the world. Help them to find you in all that they see, experience and encounter. May those attending Midnight Communion here your message of joy and salvation and ignite in them the desire to know more about you. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Midland Road.

## **Wednesday 25th December**

### **Midnight Communion / All Age Christmas Communion Service**

Dear Lord, you are the Light of the World and the Prince of Peace that this world so desperately needs. We pray for the dedication and service of all those who spread the message of Christmas here in Walsall, in this country, around the world and in places where it is dangerous to do so, where people fear for their lives when speaking your name. Support, uphold, protect and guide those who share your word both here and across the wider world. We pray that ears are open to hear your glorious message and see Christmas in a new light this year. May those who seek and those who hear come to understand the real meaning of your birth at Bethlehem. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of your road and neighbours.

## **Thursday 26th December**

### **Our Faith**

Dear Lord, we pray that our lives may not be full of indulgences and neglect. Help us not to be complacent and self-satisfied with our endeavours and not to be afraid to help where we see it is needed. Give us the energy and your strength to step out in faith, whenever we can and be confident in our ability to accomplish good works in your name. Amen.

Prayers for the Walsall Deanery, St Mark's Church.

## **Friday 27th December**

### **Constant Love**

Dear Lord, we thank you that you are always there for us and that we can turn to you whenever we need help. The knowledge of your constant love provides us with a real assurance in our lives. Help us to talk and pray to you, not only in the bad times, but also in the good times, when our lives are going well, and we need to thank you for all the gifts that you have given us. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of South Street.

## **Saturday 28th December**

### **Asian Congregation Christmas Party**

As we continue with our precious family time this Christmas, help us not to forget those who are a long way from home, relatives overseas, and those affected by world-wide issues. Jesus, King of Peace, we remember Herod's jealousy, lies and violence when you were born. Bring your peace in places of conflict, anger and hatred, across the world and right here in our communities. King of peace, we pray for your Kingdom here, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Camden Street.

## **Sunday 29th December**

### **Jesus King of Compassion**

We remember all those who are unwell at this time, through illness, loneliness, anxiety, poor mental health, and grieving the loss of a loved one. There are so many supporting these needs among them the health workers, emergency services and wide-ranging volunteer organisations. Jesus, King of compassion, give strength to all those providing help and support. Wrap your loving arms around all those who are hurting. Bring them comfort and peace in their distress. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Rutter Street.

## **Monday 30th December**

### **Our Rector / Wardens**

Dear Lord, we give thanks for everyone at St Matthew's who works behind the scenes to ensure our church runs smoothly and looks beautiful. We give special thanks for all the extra time and effort that has been freely given during this busy time at Christmas with all the extra services and events. We thank Jim, our Rector, for all his hard work and pray that he will now have time to recharge his batteries and spend time in prayer with you. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Spout Lane.

## **Tuesday 31st December**

### **Year Ahead**

We thank and praise you for the gift of your Son Jesus. During the busyness of today help us not to forget the reasons for our celebrations. Help us, Lord, to look forward to a New Year filled with hope, joy and peace. Thank you for being with us now and always. Amen.

Please pray for the residents of Milton Street.